

**City scathed  
Controller calls  
homeless services  
a failure**

# Extra Central City

Published by San Francisco Study Center

**May days  
2 big birthdays:  
TNDC turns 21  
TSIP hits 3**

# The live-in thief

**For 7 strange months  
he had his way  
with  
an  
entire  
office  
building's  
tenants**

**A bizarre  
slice of  
life in  
the heart  
of the  
city**

**C**onsider the abject misery from a virus: Headache, sore joints, upset stomach, runny nose. Plus impatience, lack of concentration, exhaustion. Throw in a tendency for negative thinking, including the hopeless feeling this will never end.

Imagine such a virus inflicting a nice old eight-story building right in the middle of town, a building with a good percent of its occupants dedicated to serving people. The virus in this case was a brash burglar who crept through the Grant Building at 1095 Market for nearly seven months.

Offices lost their sanctity and, among other things, money, cameras and tape recorders. It all went to a live-in night thief right under their noses. He became, if not a virus, then an urban crud.

Strolling up and down the deserted, dimly lighted gray marble corridors that were the picture of elegance when the building was erected in 1904, the solitary figure sauntered into offices laden with surprises just waiting to be discovered. Under new management since 2000, the building of 140 offices is occupied mainly by small businesses and do-good nonprofits.

The thief had his way with one office after another, his prodigious fingers picking through the secrets of any drawer

*continued on page 4*

**Thief image is based on Influenza virus** taken from Pfizer "Meet a Microbe" Web site [Pfizer.com/rd/microbes/meetform.html](http://Pfizer.com/rd/microbes/meetform.html)

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: CARL ANGEL